

Bradford, Bessie

From: Johnson, Les
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2000 4:26 PM
To: Bradford, Bessie
Subject: FW: commodity proposal update

-----Original Message-----

From: Laura TRUJILLO [mailto:LAURA.TRUJILLO@phxelem.k12.az.us]
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2000 3:33 PM
To: les_johnson@fns.usda.gov
Subject: commodity proposal update

High Priority **

Les,

I reviewed the proposal and applaud you and the team for a job well done. I was able to bring the proposal to a meeting of food service directors, one broker and our Co-op Director yesterday and received their feedback. Here goes:

Section One-all problems that were addressed by USDA were agreed upon by the 15 directors present. No changes to this section.

Section Two- Procurement and Specifications

#3 Update Product Specifications- there was discussion on how to track commodities with commercial labels. Who would be tracking the commodities? What labels would be used? Same ounces etc. used for all menu planning options? Would chicken nuggets be spec'd by protein content or by breeding amount? They commented it may be too vague if spec's were done by protein only. They like the idea of a National spec for each item.

#4 Commercial Labels: again the tracking question came into play here. How would it be tracked? Who would do it? Also, while you were presenting at LAC, I was sitting next to one distributor from AZ-Shamrock Foods Company. Kathy Vandenberg runs the school section and she said it would be great to use commercial so that they could save space slotting one item instead of separating the commodity item.

#6 Expand Full Substitutability: This was looked upon as a GREAT idea once I explained to them how this could help in timeliness of deliveries, pricing etc. The questions they asked were who gets to say if the commercial items are good enough as the commodity and vice versa. They were concerned with a processor getting a good quality load of chicken and using that for commercial and giving us the lesser quality chicken. This can go both ways. I did bring up the USDA graders but they were still concerned about integrity. They agreed this will help the smaller districts out. Very excited about this one! Maybe due to my excitement telling them about how great it would be.

#7 Seamless Distribution: They wanted to know how we could streamline commodities for SFSP. They do not like the separation of the two programs. More info wanted here. Also, they want more clarification on how the whole program will be streamlined. They were excited about this idea for convenience.

Commodity Holds and Recall- all were agreed and accepted as is. Very glad to see this is being done and soon.

Communication/Pilots

#12-computer Connectivity- In Arizona, we have many schools who are located on Indian Reservations who do not have a good communication system. Many do not have phones that work. I would encourage working closely with the BIA to make sure all schools can be connected if they

want to be

#15 Use of 4/11 funds-The DOD produce program is a huge success in AZ. Several sponsors did not know about it even though they have had mailings sent to them. I explained how it worked. Honestly though, in AZ we never could use 4/11 funds for purchases of produce outside the US. It was very complicated researching the 4/11 funds. They would like to see more money for DOD. I would like to have a separate DOD entitlement in addition to our A and B entitlement.

Truckload Delivery Restrictions-no comments from our group but I have one. This is great! This will help the state fill up the trucks and coordinate processing. I see this as a huge benefit especially when you have a half truckload of beef but cannot get a whole truck. Coordinating another stop to a different processor would help this situation so that the truck would not be turned away by the state dept.

These last comments are general ones by the group.
Do we still have to do a separate commodity inventory at the school level if we have commercially labeled commodity items?

How would the inventories be done if they are commercial labels? Will they have a sticker on them to identify them? (this product contains USDA commodities)

How will the state know if a school receives a commercially labeled commodity product other than a monthly processing report?

I hope that all of this makes sense. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Laura Trujillo, RD
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